(c) whether Government propose to ask the South Asian Coalitation on Child Servitude to launch similar campaigns in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh where abuse of child labour is maximum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) According to information received from the State Government of Bihar a representative of an organisation (Bachpan Bachao Andolan) has informed that "Mukti Caravan" is being launched from 14th November, 1998 in Bihar. The objectives as per information given by the organisation include, inter-alia, (i) generating awareness among the people for elimination of child labour in hazardous occupations.

(ii) to appeal vide the campaign that employers of child labour should give employment to an adult member of the family of the child labourer so released;

(iii) getting child labourors released by taking direct action at different places and initiating prosecution against offending employers;

(iv) arranging transit rehabilitation for working children during the campaign etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Awareness generation programme has already been launched by the Government and funds have been sanctioned in the child labour endemic states for this purpose. National Child Labour Projects have been started in 76 districts of the country.

Non-payment of wages to workers of patriot and link newsmagazine

1620. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that workers of United India periodicals (P) Ltd., proprietors of Patriot Newspaper and Link Newsmagazine, have not been getting wages/salaries, although a lock-out imposed in June, 1996 has been lifted on April 30, 1997;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to ensure that the workers get their wages/salaries regularly; and

(c) if no action has been taken, what action Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) As per information received from National Capital Territory of Delhi, inspite of efforts by Labour Commissioner's office, the payment of wages to the employees was not made and the management of M/s. United Periodicals Pvt. Ltd., has been prosecuted on several occasions under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The employees were also advised to file their dispute of non-payment of wages before the competent Authority.

Statutory linkage of minimum wages with price index

1621. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in several States/industries minimum wages are not linked with consumer price index numbers;

(b) if so, the details of such States and industries where such linkage has been established;

(c) whether Government are considering the proposal to statutory linkage of minimum wages with price index;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be enacted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?